

Deuteronomy 26:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then thou shalt say before the LORD thy God, I have brought away the hallowed things out of mine house, and also have given them unto the Levite, and unto the stranger, to the fatherless, and to the widow, according to all thy commandments which thou hast commanded me: I have not transgressed thy commandments, neither have I forgotten them:

Analysis

Then thou shalt say before the LORD thy God—after distributing the third-year tithe, the worshiper made formal declaration in God's presence, probably at the sanctuary. **I have brought away the hallowed things out of mine house**—the Hebrew *bi'arti ha-qodesh* (בְּעַרְתִּי הַקֹּדֶשׁ) means 'I have removed the holy portion,' referring to the consecrated tithe. **And also have given them unto the Levite, and unto the stranger, to the fatherless, and to the widow, according to all thy commandments**—affirming complete obedience to tithing requirements.

I have not transgressed thy commandments, neither have I forgotten them—the declaration included negative assertions: no violation, no neglect. This confession of obedience paralleled ancient Near Eastern treaty loyalty oaths. The worshiper testified that tithes were given properly, completely, and to the designated recipients. The public declaration created accountability, preventing deceit about charitable giving and ensuring the vulnerable actually received their due.

Historical Context

Delivered circa 1406 BC for implementation in Canaan's worship system. The sanctuary location for this declaration (probably at one of the annual feasts) meant the confession occurred in community context, not private devotion. Public attestation of obedience functioned as both worship and accountability. The practice presumed that failure to tithe properly was serious covenant violation, requiring affirmative declaration of compliance as part of right standing before God.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. Why does God require public declaration of obedience rather than relying on private conscience?
2. How does calling tithes 'hallowed things' elevate charitable giving to sacred worship?
3. What accountability structures help Christians ensure financial commitments to ministry and the poor are actually fulfilled?

Interlinear Text

וְאָמַרְתָּ	לִפְנֵי	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֶיךָ	בַּעֲרֹתִי
Then thou shalt say	before	the LORD	thy God	I have brought away
H559	H6440	H3068	H430	H1197
הַקִּדְּשִׁים	מִן	הַבַּיִת	וְגַם	נָתַתָּ יְיָ
the hallowed things	H4480	out of mine house	H1571	and also have given
H6944		H1004		H5414
לְלֵוִי	וְלִגֵּר	לְאִתּוֹם	וְלֵאלֶמְנָה	כָּכָל
them unto the Levite	and unto the stranger	to the fatherless	and to the widow	H3605
H3881	H1616	H3490	H490	
בְּמִצְוֹתֶיךָ	אֲשֶׁר	צִוִּיתָ נִי	לֹא	
according to all thy commandments	H834	which thou hast commanded	H3808	
H4687		H6680		
עַבְדְּךָ רַחֲמֵנִי	בְּמִצְוֹתֶיךָ	וְלֹא		
me I have not transgressed	according to all thy commandments	H3808		
H5674	H4687			
שִׁכַּחְתִּי:				
neither have I forgotten				
H7911				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:176 (Word): I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments.

Psalms 119:141 (Parallel theme): I am small and despised: yet do not I forget thy precepts.

Psalms 119:153 (Word): Consider mine affliction, and deliver me: for I do not forget thy law.

